

# YOUR RIGHTS

## → You have the right to a lawyer

You have the right to consult a lawyer and to be represented by a lawyer in court.

## → You have the right to be informed and to be heard

You have the right to information about your rights, the various stages of your file, the measures that concern you, and the possibilities to refuse or challenge a decision that involves you must be provided.

You have the right to receive this information in words that you understand. Don't be afraid to ask questions about anything that is not clear to you.

You have the right to be heard by the people making decisions about you (including judges and your case worker).

## → If you are transferred

You have the right to be consulted before changing rehabilitation centres or foster homes.

You also have the right to receive the information and preparation you need for the transfer.



## → You have the right to communicate with your loved ones

While you are in placement, no one can prevent you from communicating with your lawyer, the DYP, the Commission or a court clerk.

No one other than the court can prevent you from communicating with your parents or siblings.

You also have the right to speak to any other person, like your friends, grandparents, family members, etc., unless the court prohibits it. If you are in a rehabilitation centre, then the authorized person may prohibit you from communicating with these people. If so, that person must explain the reasons for their decision, give you a written copy of it, and inform you that you can challenge it.

You must be allowed to communicate with all these people in confidentiality.

## → If you receive a disciplinary measure

If you are in a rehabilitation centre, the centre must explain its rules to you and tell you what disciplinary measures you will face for not following them.

You can only be isolated or restrained to protect you or the people around you, never to punish you because you have broken a rule.



## → You have the right to be accompanied

You have the right to be accompanied by the person of your choice when you meet with the DYP or your case worker.

However, this right can be restricted if the person who accompanies you:

- speaks for you
- interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting
- breaches confidentiality
- does not act in your best interest (for example, if they are believed to have taken advantage of you)

## RESOURCES

Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse:  
<https://www.cdpedj.qc.ca/en> or  
1-800-361-6477 (toll-free in Québec)

Fédération des Centres d'assistance et d'accompagnement aux plaintes (CAAP):  
<https://fcaap.ca/en>

C.A.R.E. Jeunesse: <https://youthincare.ca>

Étude longitudinale sur le devenir des jeunes placés au Québec et en France:  
[www.edjep.ca](http://www.edjep.ca)

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

## ABOUT YOUTH PROTECTION:

### → Every decision that involves you must be made in your best interests

In your 'best interests' means that the person making a decision that involves you must consider your safety, your rights, your development, your needs and your opinion.

### → You may not agree with these decisions

but people have to explain them to you fully and inform you how to challenge them if doing so is possible.

### → You have the right to be treated with respect, courtesy and dignity



## IF YOU WANT TO

### → Learn about your rights

Contact the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse anywhere in Québec and contact the users' committee in your region.

### → File a complaint

If you are not satisfied with the services you received at a CISSS or CIUSSS, you can file a complaint with the local service quality and complaints commissioner. If your rights have not been respected anywhere in Québec, you can file a complaint with the Commission des droits de la personne et des droits de la jeunesse.

### → Access your record

You can request access to your record if you are 14 years of age or over. To do so, a request to the information access of the CISSS or CIUSSS where you receive services must be submitted. These centres can explain any conditions and tell you how to proceed.

### → Find your biological parents after adoption

If you are 14 years of age or over, you can apply to obtain your adoption record and biological antecedents as well as request a reunification with your birth parents. To do so, contact the adoption services at the CISSS or CIUSSS for the region where your adoption judgment was issued.

### Have someone to accompany you

Contact the users' committee at the CISSS or CIUSSS where you receive services or the complaint support assistance centre (CAAP) in your area.

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## WHEN THE DYP IS IN YOUR LIFE



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**Commission des droits**  
de la personne et  
des droits de la jeunesse